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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The City of Norilsk

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1. Construction of Norilsk was started in 1938, at which time the city was called Sotsgorod (Socialist City) and was only a small settlement of Nentsy and Tunguzy. Plans for the construction of the city were carefully worked out. In June 1953, the population was approximately one million (sic) and included administrative officials, former prisoners who could not return to their homes, and a few civilians who lived in the city by choice.<sup>1</sup>
2. Most of the buildings were of brick, five to eight stories high. There was one building 11 stories high. The industrial quarter (prom-flosh-chadka) was located in the eastern part of the city, but there were some factories scattered throughout other sections of the city. Most of the forced labor camps were located three or four kilometers south of the city. No food was produced in Norilsk; it had to be shipped in during the two summer months. Throughout the year, there were two postal planes a week from Krasnoyarsk; the flight took six hours.
3. The whole area of the city, about 40 kilometers in diameter, was surrounded by a barbed wire fence (sic), with watchtowers and dog patrols. No one could leave the city without special permission. Some former political prisoners had to report to the militia every two weeks to sign a paper. 25X1

Industries

4. Medzavod, a copper factory which was located 500 meters from Camp No. 4, began operations in 1952. The factory employed approximately 25,000

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workers, consisting only of criminal prisoners and free workers. The ore came from nearby mines. The factory had two chimneys, about 150 meters tall, with red lamps hung on them at night, possibly to warn approaching aircraft. Factory No. 25, which refined cobalt and nickel ore, was located east of Medzavod. [redacted] a special military factory [redacted] was located in the industrial quarter and guarded by soldiers. [redacted]

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5. Strip mining for copper and iron was carried out mostly on Shmidt Mountain. This type of mining was called "American system". [redacted] the mines on Shmidt Mountain were started in 1947 and 1953, and it was hoped that rich deposits would be reached. Two camps were assigned to the work in these iron and copper mines: Camp No. 10, for criminals, and Medvezhka or Camp No. 2, for political prisoners. The mines were connected by rail with the Nadezhda railroad station (sic), which was the starting point for the line to Dudinka. Freight cars were 80-ton cars of U. S. manufacture, obtained by the Soviets during World War II.
6. Three coal mines near the city produced enough coal for the factories and general city needs. Prisoners from the following camps worked in the mines: Camp No. 1 (Ugolnyy lager - Coal Camp), Western Camp (Zapadnyy lager), and Kayrkan or Camp No. 2, a political camp. Kayrkan was located 25 kilometers west of Norilsk. The Kayrkan mine was the richest of the mines and could supply all the needs of the city and its factories. Full operations were begun in 1948. At that time, a few hundred prisoners worked there, but in 1953 there were 5,000 workers.
7. Cobalt and nickel were mined in the Norilsk area and were found in the same ore, which contained four to six percent cobalt and a similar percentage of nickel. Platinum mines in the area had been exhausted.
8. There were a geological commission and a mineralogical commission in Norilsk, composed of several hundreds of engineers, assistants, and administrative officials. Groups of prisoners were sent out by the commissions to prospect and return samples of ore to the laboratories for analysis. There were various small, specialized laboratories and the Central Chemical Laboratory (Tsentralnaya khimicheskaya laboratoriya), which was located in the southeast part of town, near the industrial quarter, in a three-story, wooden building, erected in 1940. In 1945-1946, the head of the chemical section of the geological laboratory was Vener (fnu). The overall director (sic) in 1945-1947 was Gusakorskiy (fnu), who in 1953 was a director of the Norilsk Combine. The head of the combine, which included all the mines and factories in Norilsk, was Zverev (fnu), a brother of Arseniy G. Zverev, the USSR Minister of Finance.

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#### Railroads

8. The construction of a broad-gauge railroad from Krasnoyarsk via Igarka to Norilsk was begun in 1951 and was to be completed in 1954. The rail line went from Igarka to Norilsk, bypassing Dudinka<sup>2</sup>. After the line approached the narrow-gauge Norilsk - Dudinka line, the two lines ran roughly parallel and at various points they crossed. In such places, there were sometimes three rails; switches sent the car on the proper track. There were to be two railroad bridges over the Yenisey River, one in Krasnoyarsk and the other at Igarka. In June 1953,

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some construction work was in progress on the river, near Krasnoyarsk, which might have been the beginning of a bridge.

#### Forced Labor Camp Organization in Norilsk

9. Until September 1948, there were 27 camp sections (lagpunkt) in Norilsk, all under one administration and all corrective labor camps (ispravitelnyy trudovoy lager - ITL). The complex of camps was called Norilag. In September 1948, the Norilsk prisoners were divided into two groups, politicals and criminals. The politicals were put into camps called Special State Disciplinary Camps (Gosudarstvennyy osoborezhimnyy lager - Gorlag). These camps were under the administration of the MGB, as indicated by directives posted in the camp barracks concerning the internal order of the camps. There were seven camp sections (lagpunkt) under Gorlag, six for men and one for women. Criminals remained in the corrective labor camps (ITL), which were administered by the MVD.
10. Political prisoners were not allowed to work in factories, only in mines and on construction jobs. Criminals could work in factories and were not segregated from free workers and ex-prisoners at work. Prisoners were frequently transferred from one camp to another, apparently to prevent them from getting on friendly terms with the camp administration or to help one or another section in the fulfillment of its norm.
11. There was some conflict between the MGB and the MVD in regard to the employment of prisoners. The MVD was concerned solely with the completion of the job and would use any labor available. The MVD was part of the production administration. The MGB was only concerned with the aspects of state security. The MGB decided what kind of work a prisoner was allowed to do.
12. [redacted] were  
35 to 40 million forced laborers in the USSR.
1. [redacted] Comment: The population of Norilsk has been variously estimated by a number of sources at 100,000 to 500,000.

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